MAY 2 9 2003 E

Patent Pocket No. 016499-777

Attorney's Docket No. 016499-777

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Mail STOP: RCE

Martin Theriault, et al.

Application No.: 09/698,817

Application No.: 09/698,817

Examiner: Thiem D. Phan

Filed: October 26, 2000

Confirmation No.: 6414

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR

MAINTAINING A DRY

ATMOSPHERE IN A SURFACE

MOUNT DEVICE PLACEMENT

MACHINE

MAINTAINING

MAINTAINING

MACHINE

AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 (RCE)

MAIL STOP: RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED

JUN 0 4 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

This Amendment and Reply constitutes A REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 (RCE). This Amendment and Reply is believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action mailed January 31, 2003, and is being submitted on or before the current due date of May 31, 2003. A one-month Petition for Extension of Time accompanies this RCE.

Prior to the continued examination of the above-identified application under C.F.R.

§ 1.114, please enter the following amendments.

05/30/2003 CNGUYEN 00000045 09698817

01 FC:1801 02 FC:1202 03 FC:1201 750.00 OP 252.00 OP 84.00 OP

(10/01)